

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) A powder paint composition comprising at least
 - (a) a thermosetting polymer having functional groups capable of reacting with β -hydroxyalkylamide units
 - (b) a compound comprising β -hydroxyalkylamide units and
 - (c) a deceleration agent, capable of reversibly blocking the functional groups of polymer (a),

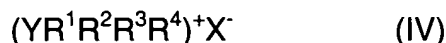
wherein the deceleration agent is present in an amount sufficient to block at least 9 % of the total amount of functional groups of polymer (a).

2. (original) A powder paint composition according to Claim 1 characterised in that the polymer (a) is a carboxylic acid functional polymer or an anhydride functional polymer.

3. (currently amended) A powder paint composition according to ~~any one of Claims 1-2~~ Claim 1, characterised in that the deceleration agent (c) is a compound according to formula (III) and/or (IV) :



or



wherein:

Y is N or P,

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 or R^4 are independently of each other, substituted or unsubstituted carbon chains with 1-50 carbon atoms in the main chain and

X^- is halide.

4. (original) A powder paint composition according to Claim 3 characterised in that the deceleration agent (c) is a compound according to formula (III).

5. (currently amended) A powder paint composition according to ~~any one of Claims 3-4~~ Claim 3 characterised in that Y is N.

6. (currently amended) A powder paint composition according to ~~any one of Claims 3-5~~ Claim 3 characterised in that R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are unsubstituted carbon chains.

7. (currently amended) A powder paint composition according to ~~any one of Claims 1-6~~ Claim 1 characterised in that the deceleration agent is octyldimethylamine, decyldimethylamine, dodecyldimethylamine, tetradecyldimethylamine, hexadecyldimethylamine, octadecyldimethylamine, hydrogenated tallow alkyl)-dimethylamine and/or hexadecyldimethylamine.

8. (currently amended) A process for the preparation of a powder paint composition according to ~~any one of Claims 1-7~~ Claim 1 comprising at least the steps of:

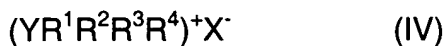
- a) producing a polymer (a) having functional groups capable of reacting with β-hydroxyalkylamide units at the processing temperature T_p;
- b) adding a deceleration agent (c) to the polymer at temperature T_a, wherein T_a is equal to or lower than T_p but higher than the T_g or T_m of the polymer, in an amount sufficient to block at least 9% of the functional groups of the polymer (a) capable of reacting with β-hydroxyalkylamide units.

9. (original) A process according to Claim 8, wherein the deceleration agent is added before the polymer is cooled down to below its T_g or T_m.

10. (original) The use of a tertiary compound according to formula (III) and/or (IV):



or



wherein:

Y is N or P

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 or R^4 are independently of each other, substituted or unsubstituted carbon chains with 1-50 carbon atoms in the main chain and

X^- is halide

as a deceleration agent in a powder paint composition comprising a β -hydroxyalkylamide compound.

11. (currently amended) A process for curing a powder paint composition on a substrate comprising applying according to any one of Claims 1-7 or a powder paint composition obtained by the process according to any one of Claims 8-9 whereby the powder paint composition according to Claim 1 onto is first applied to a substrate and then cured curing the powder paint composition.